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ABSTRACT

This curriculum guide for use in Liberian schools, K-12, describes the responsibility and burden of social studies education as that of providing method for implementing and strengthening democratic attitudes and behavior, knowledge, understanding, beliefs and loyalty in all Liberian citizens. This is elaborated through 21 more specific objectives to be achieved in the teaching of social studies. The general content of social studies instruction for each grade is briefly described. The learning sequence largely parallels that of United States social studies education, beginning with understandings associated with the school and home in first grade, progressing through studies of community, county, country, Nigerian and African geography, history, civics, of Nigeria and Africa, and concluding with a study of world geography, history, and economics. Related documents are SO 000 744 and SO 000 746. (JLB)

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REVISED SOCIAL STUDIES FOR LIBERIAN SCHOOLS

CURRICULUM, SYLLABUS (SCOPE AND SEQUENCE)

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DIVISION OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

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The Place of the Social Studies in the School Curriculum

It is the unique function and burden of social studies to lay a solid foundation and to provide the method for implementing and strengthening democratic attitudes and behavior, knowledge, understanding, beliefs and loyalty in all our citizens. Several major and unprecedented changes have occurred in the Liberian way of life since the war resulting in profound pressures being placed on all our educational endeavors to nurture and develop the highest and noblest qualities of citizenship for effective and useful living now and in future. Thinking and mentally alert citizens and educators are more necessary now and will be so increasingly important in future if we are to appreciate these changes and chart future directions for them for the continual ability and security of our nation. The challenges of the present therefore make it imperative that all our ablest efforts be directed toward the goal of building a sound human foundation based upon knowledge, faith and beliefs in the values of our national way of life.

OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED IN THE TEACHING OF SOCIAL STUDIES

1. To understand and appreciate our cultural and national heritage and to appreciate the role which various leaders in church, state, public and private life have played in our history.
2. To acquire and appreciate knowledge of historical events and their causes.
3. To know and understand governmental regulations, functions, duties and their daily impact on the lives of all citizens.
4. To practice democratic behavior of justice and fair play at home and at school and in the community.
5. To understand and appreciate the role of the individual in society.
6. To learn the merits of truth and its various interpretations.
7. To develop the ability and willingness to consider controversial issues objectively and how to work with others to solve problems even as a student.
8. To understand the economic policies of our nation and the world and the role played in our economic development by the uses of our natural resources and how to preserve them.
9. To develop attitudes and habits which safeguard property both public and private.
10. To develop a consistent code of behavior toward all people which respects the dignity of all men regardless of race, creed, religion

.../2

natural origin, social or economic status, or physical defects.

11. To understand the importance to society of each person having the freedom and opportunity to develop his innate capacities to their fullest levels.

12. To understand the historic and geographic reasons for the behaviour of regional, national groups and communities noting cultural similarities and differences and to appreciate these similarities and differences.

13. To understand and appreciate the meaning of national unification and integration.

14. To acquire knowledge of the physical world through the study of geography and to develop an appreciation of the interdependence of peoples and nations.

15. To learn and understand the interrelationships between man and his natural environment.

16. To understand that a harmonious family life is the foundation of a stable national life.

17. To learn and practice the right attitudes and skills for good family relationships.

18. To understand and appreciate the meaning of jobs and the types of workers necessary to provide for our welfare, and to evaluate each individual's assets and capacities for a useful vocation.

19. To learn wholesome recreational skills and develop good leisure interests and habits.

20. To appreciate scientific discoveries for human welfare and happiness.

21. To develop good work habits and attitudes and principles of co-operative group living.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Kindergarten

Playing and caring for toys, sharing toys and playing together with brothers, sisters and others, making a play house, learning good manners and courtesy, playing with animals, watching the painter paint, or farmer at work, visit to a farm or rice farm, planning gifts for friends and family, decorating the home and classroom, helping cheerfully making meal time a happy time, enjoying stories, music, and games with family and friends, recognizing my country's flag, and pledging allegiance, participating in patriotic programs, learning songs and poetry, reciting

.../3

simple poems, learning to speak well, learning good manners, your name, your parents' names and those of your friends, practicing good behavior.

1ST GRADE

SOCIAL STUDIES

The School and Home

The school community and friends - feeling at home in school, making friends at school, games and fun, recreation and plays, the school grounds, flowers and other plants, school services and facilities, respect for property, principal, teachers, classmates and others i.e. the gardener, maintenance personnel etc.

The home- how many persons live in the home? What kinds of job do your parents perform? How would you describe your family? Limited or extended? What are the family animals -- cats, dogs? What do children play with at home? (Toys and games).
Good social habits-love, trust confidence, honesty at home and at school. Courteousness, saying thanks, and please; health and safety rules at home and at school.

Respect for and care of property at home and at school and in community, keeping the classroom neat, tidy, and in order, playing together and sharing at work and at play, being willing to help and cooperative at home and at school. Getting acquainted with the work of service personnel, the cleaners, doctors, and nurses, police, garage manager, safety devices, the market people, farmers, playing at home and at school, honesty, learning stories of great heroes, heroines and leaders celebrating national holidays, how to use the telephone.

2ND GRADE

SOCIAL STUDIES

Living In The Neighborhood

How big is the neighborhood? What do the people in the neighborhood do for a living? What institutions are in your neighborhood - schools, hospitals, churches, play grounds, the local market. Do you visit these places? Describe a visit to these places. What are their functions? Who are your neighborhood friends? Who are your parents friends? How would you describe your neighborhood? What important leaders live in your neighborhood? What gardens are in your neighborhood and at school. How do plants grow? What are the seasons of the year. What is a year, a month, a week? What are some health and safety rules of your neighborhood? Do you help to keep your neighborhood clean? Are you a good neighbor?

learning transportation and communication devices, rules and regulations, expanding knowledge of our physical surroundings at home, at school, and in the neighborhood, learning arts and crafts, making simple models out of local materials of bus, car or plane, house etc. taking part in historical dramas, learning about religious, national and international holidays, learning rules of how to get along with other people.

3RD GRAND
SOCIAL STUDIES

Living In the Community

How big is the community in which you live? How much bigger is it than your neighborhood? Describe your community. What monuments are in your community? How helpful are you at school, at home, in the neighborhood and in your community? Are you a member of the community and neighborhood club or team? Are your parents members of neighborhood and community clubs? What is the purpose of these clubs? What industries, institutions, development projects, and activities are in your community? Describe them - farms, supermarkets, local markets, post office, radio station, laundry mat, road construction, mines, hydro plant, hunting, fishing etc.

Having a party, how to shop for small items and appreciating simple financial transactions and saving habits, learning the meaning of the flag, its pledge, respect for the flag and loyalty to it, making a simple flag. How do people get food, shelter, clothing, what forms of transportation and communications exist in your community, how transportation and communication bring communities closer together, discovering the meaning of election and voting procedures, taking pride and appreciating your country's history through songs and verses.

4TH GRADE
LIBERIAN GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY AND CIVICS

Living in a county

First Semester

What is a county? What is a country? Liberia is divided into nine counties. What do the people in your county do for a living? Location of your county, How big is your county in size and population? What are the natural resources of your county? How would you describe the physical environment of your county? Describe the physical development of your county. What goods are exported from your county? What goods are imported into your county? What is the government of your county like? Who are the leaders of your county? What is the relationship of your county to other counties and .../

the Government of Liberia? How to be a good citizen of your county and country?

Second Semester

My Country

The location and climate of Liberia, its soils, vegetation, major food and tree crops, animal life, name the natural resources of Liberia, describe the industrial progress of the country. What do the people of Liberia do for a living (what jobs they do?) The peoples of Liberia, their origins, culture and the movement of populations. How to be a good citizen of Liberia. Rules and regulations for good citizenship, The Symbols of national unifications and integration.

5TH GRADE

GEOGRAPHY

World Atlas

First Semester

The climates and seasons of the earth, the continents of the world their location, oceans, rivers, lakes mountains, races and people, languages, world exports and imports, world travel, ships, planes, rail, road, natural resources of the world and their uses, transportation and communication, major industries.

Second Semester

West African Geography

The coastal zone, forest and savannah, animal life food crops, natural resources, exports, imports, industries, transportation and communication.

6TH GRADE

First Semester

Liberia And African History

The Colonial, Commonwealth and early Independence period - their history and progress. Foreign relations during these periods, boundary settlements, wars and their effects, unification and integration, the Open Door Policy.

Second Semester

Traditional Africa

The old African culture, on overview of African history with emphasis on West Africa, settlement and the founding of the Liberian state on the West Coast of Africa.

7TH GRADE

Liberian Civics

First Semester

The constitutions of Liberia - Colonial, Commonwealth, Independence and Republican constitutions, amendments to the Independence and Republican constitutions, the government of Liberia, good citizenship, rights, privileges, elections, voting, taxation, government services, regulations, Executive Orders, bills.

Second Semester

Government leaders, their roles and duties - government procedures, the judiciary, Legislature, and Executive branches of governments, separate and coordinating powers, unification and integration, the Open Door Policy, Annual messages.

8TH GRADE

African Geography

First Semester

The regions of Africa - climate, soils, vegetation, land types, natural resources, and production, food rainfall, animal life, population.

Second Semester

Industries and their work, industrial and economic development, transportation and communication, infrastructional development.

9TH GRADE

African History

First Semester

Africa Before 1500

The culture areas of Africa, nomadic and pastoral peoples, farmers, hunters, food gatherers and cattle areas, desert culture, savannah, rainforest and coastal culture, the kingdoms of Africa, traditions and art of Africa, North Africa, East Africa, West Africa.

Second Semester

Africa Since 1500

The Slave Trade, Colonialist, North Africa, Central Africa, Sourthern Africa, independent Africa, colonial Africa, the OAU.

...../7

10TH GRADE

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

First Semester

The climates, races and peoples of the earth, land soils, rainfall and food production, the location of nations and the effect of geography upon them, what different people do for a living in different parts of the world.

Second Semester

National and continental boundaries and their problems, the growth of population, problems of population explosion, pollution, power supply.

11TH GRADE

WORLD HISTORY

First Semester

1. The Western World (Europe, America, Australia)
2. The Non-Western World (Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the islands of the oceans.)
   The world before 1500, contributions to world history.

Second Semester

1. The Western World (Europe, America, Australia)
2. The Non-Western World (Asia, Africa, the Middle East and islands of the world.
   The world since 1500, contributions to world history, world organizations, outstanding international problems, living in a scientific and industrial age.

12th GRADE

World Economics

First Semester

The natural distribution of the resources and wealth of the earth, their production, utilization and distribution, labor, control, management. Principles of international trade, commerce, banking and finance, interdependence of nations.

Second Semester

(Understanding industrialization, capitalism free trade associations, tariff controls, protective markets how a nation becomes productive and maintains its economy, the exploitation of the natural resources of the earth and how they are used for the happiness of man.
The contribution of Liberia to the industrialization of the world, the Open Door Policy, mines and production.

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